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(71) Applicant: **ETHYL PETROLEUM ADDITIVES
LIMITED**
London Road
Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 2UW(GB)

(72) Inventor: **Wallace, Graeme McRobert**
5, Freesia Close
Wokingham Berkshire RG11 2NE(GB)

(74) Representative: **Collier, Jeremy Austin Grey et
al**
J.A.Kemp & Co. 14, South Square Gray's Inn
London WC1R 5EU(GB)

(54) **Environmentally friendly fuel compositions and additives therefor.**

(57) Compositions and methods for achieving almost immediate reductions in emissions produced during the operations of engines or burners on middle distillate hydrocarbonaceous fuels. This is effected by including in the fuel a sufficiently high concentration of at least one fuel-soluble ashless dispersant. The amount used is equivalent to at least 50 ppm, preferably 75 to 1,000 ppm, and most preferably 100 to 250 ppm of ashless dispersant (active ingredient). It is preferred to include in the fuel at least one fuel-soluble hindered phenolic antioxidant, such as 2,6-di-tert-butyl- α -dimethylamino-p-cresol.

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This invention relates to middle distillate fuel compositions such as diesel fuel, home heating oil, kerosene, jet fuel, aviation fuel, gas turbine engine fuels, light cycle oils, etc. having improved combustion characteristics.

It has long been known to use small quantities of various additives to improve the properties and/or performance characteristics of middle distillate fuels. For example, small quantities of dispersants have been used in order to improve engine or burner cleanliness and thereby obtain in time a reduction in the amount of noxious emissions formed on combustion of the fuel. Likewise, antioxidants, corrosion inhibitors, antifoam agents, demulsifiers and similar types of additives have been employed in such fuels.

This invention involves the surprising discovery that it is possible to provide a middle distillate fuel composition which results on combustion in almost immediate substantial reductions of noxious emissions such as, unburned hydrocarbons, particulates, and/or carbon monoxide. Moreover, it has been found that such fuel compositions can provide substantial improvements in fuel economy in the operation, for example, of diesel engines.

In the practise of this invention use is made of a higher concentration of fuel-soluble ashless dispersant than was customarily employed in fuels heretofore. In addition, the fuel compositions preferably contain one or more sterically hindered phenolic compounds, most preferably a 2,6-dihydrocarbyl- α -dihydrocarbylamino-p-cresol such as 2,6-di-tert-butyl- α -dimethylamino-p-cresol which is available from Ethyl Corporation as ETHYL® antioxidant 703.

Accordingly, in one of its embodiments this invention provides a fuel composition which comprises liquid middle distillate hydrocarbonaceous fuel containing at least one fuel-soluble ashless dispersant in an amount of at least 50 ppm sufficient to cause a prompt reduction in emissions released upon combustion of said fuel composition. Preferably the fuel contains 75 to 1,000 ppm and most preferably 100-250 ppm of the ashless dispersant.

Another embodiment of this invention is a method of achieving an almost immediate reduction in the amount of noxious emissions formed on combustion of a hydrocarbonaceous fuel in the middle distillate boiling range which comprises blending in such fuel an ashless dispersant in an amount of at least 50 ppm sufficient to achieve such reduction in emissions.

Other embodiments of this invention will be apparent from the ensuing description and appended claims.

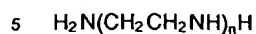
Ashless Dispersants. Ashless dispersants are described in numerous patent specifications, mainly as additives for use in lubricant compositions, but their use in hydrocarbon fuels has also been described. Ashless dispersants leave little or no metal-containing residue on combustion. They generally contain only carbon, hydrogen, oxygen and in most cases nitrogen, but sometimes contain in addition other non-metallic elements such as phosphorus, sulphur or boron.

The preferred ashless dispersant is an alkenyl succinimide of an amine having at least one primary amino group capable of forming an imide group. Representative examples are given in U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,172,892; 3,202,678; 3,216,936; 3,219,666; 3,254,025; 3,272,746; and 4,234,435. The alkenyl succinimides may be formed by conventional methods such as by heating an alkenyl succinic anhydride, acid, acid-ester, acid halide, or lower alkyl ester with an amine containing at least one primary amino group. The alkenyl succinic anhydride may be made readily by heating a mixture of olefin and maleic anhydride to about 180°-220° C. The olefin is preferably a polymer or copolymer of a lower monoolefin such as ethylene, propylene, isobutene and the like. The more preferred source of alkenyl group is from polyisobutene having a molecular weight up to 10,000 or higher. In a still more preferred embodiment the alkenyl group is a polyisobutenyl group having a molecular weight of about 500-5,000, and preferably about 700-2,000, especially 800-1,200. The isobutene used in making the polyisobutene is usually (but not necessarily) a mixture of isobutene and other C₄ isomers such as 1-butene. Thus, strictly speaking, the acylating agent formed from maleic anhydride and "polyisobutene" made from such mixtures of isobutene and other C₄ isomers such as 1-butene, can be termed a "polybutenyl succinic anhydride" and a succinimide made therewith can be termed a "polybutenyl succinimide". However, it is common to refer to such substances as "polyisobutenyl succinic anhydride" and "polyisobutenyl succinimide", respectively. As used herein "polyisobutenyl" and "polybutenyl" are used interchangeably to denote the alkenyl moiety whether made from a highly pure isobutene or a more impure mixture of isobutene and other C₄ isomers such as 1-butene.

Amines which may be employed in forming the ashless dispersant include any that have at least one primary amino group which can react to form an imide group. A few representative examples are: methylamine, 2-ethylhexylamine, n-dodecylamine, stearylamine, N,N-dimethylpropanediamine, N-(3-aminopropyl)morpholine, N-dodecylpropanediamine, N-aminopropyl-piperazine, ethanolamine, N-ethanolethylenediamine and the like.

The preferred amines are the alkylene polyamines such as propylene diamine, dipropylene triamine, di-(1,2-butylene)triamine, and tetra-(1,2-propylene)pentamine.

The most preferred amines are the ethylene polyamines which can be depicted by the formula



wherein n is an integer from one to about ten. These include: ethylene diamine, diethylene triamine, triethylene tetramine, tetraethylene pentamine, pentaethylene hexamine, and the like, including mixtures thereof in which case n is the average value of the mixture. These ethylene polyamines have a primary amine group at each end so can form mono-alkenylsuccinimides and bis-alkenylsuccinimides. Commercially available ethylene polyamine mixtures usually contain minor amounts of branched species and cyclic species such as N-aminoethyl piperazine, N,N'-bis(aminoethyl)piperazine, N,N'-bis-(piperazinyl)ethane, and like compounds. The preferred commercial mixtures have approximate overall compositions falling in the range corresponding to diethylene triamine to pentaethylene hexamine, mixtures generally corresponding in overall makeup to tetraethylene pentamine being most preferred.

Thus especially preferred ashless dispersants for use in the present invention are the products of reaction of a polyethylene polyamine, e.g. triethylene tetramine or tetraethylene pentamine, with a hydrocarbon-substituted carboxylic acid or anhydride made by reaction of a polyolefin, preferably polyisobutene, having a number average molecular weight of 500 to 5,000, preferably 700 to 2,000 and especially 800 to 1,200, with an unsaturated polycarboxylic acid or anhydride, e.g., maleic anhydride, maleic acid, fumaric acid, or the like, including mixtures of two or more such substances.

As used herein the term "succinimide" is meant to encompass the completed reaction product from reaction between components (i) and (ii) and is intended to encompass compounds wherein the product may have amide, amidine, and/or salt linkages in addition to the imide linkage of the type that results from the reaction of a primary amino group and an anhydride moiety.

Another class of useful ashless dispersants includes alkenyl succinic acid esters and diesters of alcohols containing 1-20 carbon atoms and 1-6 hydroxyl groups. Representative examples are described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,331,776; 3,381,022; and 3,522,179. The alkenyl succinic portion of these esters corresponds to the alkenyl succinic portion of the succinimides described above including the same preferred and most preferred subgenus, e.g., polyisobutenyl succinic acids wherein the polyisobutenyl group has a number average molecular weight of 500 to 5,000, preferably 700-2,000, especially 800 to 1,200.

Alcohols useful in preparing the esters include methanol, ethanol, isobutanol, octadecanol, eicosanol, ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, tetraethylene glycol, diethylene glycol monoethylether, propylene glycol, tripropylene glycol, glycerol, sorbitol, 1,1,1-trimethylol ethane, 1,1,1-trimethylol propane, 1,1,1-trimethylol butane, pentaerythritol, dipentaerythritol, and the like.

The succinic esters are readily made by merely heating a mixture of alkenyl succinic acid, anhydrides or lower alkyl (e.g., C₁-C₄) ester with the alcohol while distilling out water or lower alkanol. In the case of acid-esters less alcohol is used. In fact, acid-esters made from alkenyl succinic anhydrides do not evolve water. In another method the alkenyl succinic acid or anhydrides can be merely reacted with an appropriate alkylene oxide such as ethylene oxide, propylene oxide, and the like, including mixtures thereof.

In another embodiment the ashless dispersant is an alkenyl succinic ester-amide mixture. These may be made by heating the above-described alkenyl succinic acids, anhydrides or lower alkyl esters with an alcohol and an amine either sequentially or in a mixture. The alcohols and amines described above are also useful in this embodiment. Alternatively, amino alcohols can be used alone or with the alcohol and/or amine to form the ester-amide mixtures. The amino alcohol can contain 1-20 carbon atoms, 1-6 hydroxy groups and 1-4 amine nitrogen atoms. Examples are ethanolamine, diethanolamine, N-ethanol-diethylene triamine, and trimethylol aminomethane.

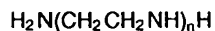
Representative examples of suitable ester-amide mixtures are described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,184,474; 3,576,743; 3,632,511; 3,804,763; 3,836,471; 3,862,981; 3,936,480; 3,948,800; 3,950,341; 3,957,854; 3,957,855; 3,991,098; 4,071,548; and 4,173,540.

Such ashless dispersants containing alkenyl succinic residues may, and as is well known, be post-reacted with boron compounds, phosphorus derivatives and/or carboxylic acid acylating agents, e.g. maleic anhydride.

Another useful class of ashless dispersants includes the Mannich condensates of hydrocarbyl-substituted phenols, formaldehyde or formaldehyde precursors (e.g. paraformaldehyde) and an amine having at least one primary amine group and containing 1-10 amine groups and 1-20 carbon atoms. Mannich

condensates useful in this invention are described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,442,808; 3,448,047; 3,539,633; 3,591,598; 3,600,372; 3,634,515; 3,697,574; 3,703,536; 3,704,308; 3,725,480; 3,726,882; 3,736,357; 3,751,365; 3,756,953; 3,793,202; 3,798,165; 3,798,247; 3,803,039; and 3,413,347.

More preferred Mannich condensates are those made by condensing a polyisobutenyl phenol wherein the polyisobutenyl group has an average molecular weight of about 800-3,000 with formaldehyde or a formaldehyde precursor and an ethylene polyamine having the formula:

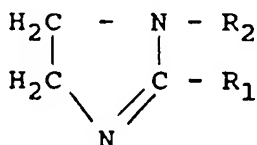


wherein n is an integer from one to ten or mixtures thereof especially those in which n has an average value of 3-5.

Typical post-treated ashless dispersants such as succinimides and Mannich condensates are described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,036,003; 3,087,936; 3,200,107; 3,216,936; 3,254,025; 3,256,185; 3,278,550; 3,280,234; 3,281,428; 3,282,955; 3,312,619; 3,366,569; 3,367,943; 3,373,111; 3,403,102; 3,442,808; 3,455,831; 3,455,832; 3,493,520; 3,502,677; 3,513,093; 3,533,945; 3,539,633; 3,573,010; 3,579,450; 3,591,598; 3,600,372; 3,639,242; 3,649,229; 3,649,659; 3,658,846; 3,697,574; 3,702,575; 3,703,536; 3,704,308; 3,708,422; and 4,857,214.

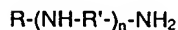
A further type of ashless dispersants which can be used comprises interpolymers of oil-solubilising monomers such as decyl methacrylate, vinyl decyl ether and high molecular weight olefins with monomers containing polar substituents, e.g., aminoalkyl acrylates or acrylamides and poly(oxyethylene)-substituted acrylates. These may be characterised as "polymeric dispersants" and examples thereof are disclosed in the following U.S. Pat. Nos.: 3,329,658; 3,449,250; 3,519,565; 565; 3,666,730; 3,687,849; and 3,702,300.

Another class of ashless dispersants which can advantageously be used in the fuel compositions of this invention are the imidazoline dispersants which can be represented by the formula:



wherein R_1 represents a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 30 carbon atoms, e.g. an alkyl or alkenyl group having 7 to 22 carbon atoms, and R_2 represents a hydrogen atoms or a hydrocarbon radical of 1 to 22 carbon atoms, or an aminoalkyl, acylaminoalkyl or hydroxyalkyl radical having 2 to 50 carbon atoms. Such long-chain alkyl (or long-chain alkenyl) imidazoline compounds may be made by reaction of a corresponding long-chain fatty acid (of formula $\text{R}_1\text{-COOH}$), for example oleic acid, with an appropriate polyamine. The imidazoline formed is then ordinarily called, for example, oleylimidazoline where the radical R_1 represents the oleyl residue of oleic acid. Other suitable alkyl substituents in the 2-position of these imidazolines include undecyl, heptadecyl, lauryl and erucyl. Suitable N-substituents of the imidazolines (i.e. radicals R_2) include hydrocarbyl groups, hydroxyalkyl groups, aminoalkyl groups, and acylaminoalkyl groups. Examples of the foregoing groups include methyl, butyl, decyl, cyclohexyl, phenyl, benzyl, tolyl, hydroxyethyl, aminoethyl, oleylaminoethyl and stearylamoethyl.

Other suitable ashless dispersants which may be incorporated in the fuel compositions of this invention include the products of condensation of a cyclic anhydride with a straight-chain N-alkylpolyamine of the formula:



where n is an integer at least equal to 1, usually 3 to 5, R is a saturated or unsaturated linear hydrocarbon radical of 10 to 22 carbon atoms and R' is a divalent alkylene or alkylidene radical of 1 to 6 carbon atoms. Examples of such polyamines include N-oleyl-1,3-propanediamine, N-stearyl-1,3-propanediamine, N-oleyl-1,3-butanediamine, N-oleyl-2-methyl-1,3-propanediamine, N-oleyl-1,3-pentanedi-amine, N-oleyl-2-ethyl-1,3-propanediamine, N-stearyl-1,3-butanediamine, N-stearyl-2-methyl-1,3-propanediamine, N-stearyl-1,3-pentanedi-amine, N-stearyl-2-ethyl-1,3-propanediamine, N-oleyl-dipropylenetriamine and N-stearyl-dipropylenetriamine. Such linear N-alkylpolyamines are condensed with, e.g., a succinic, maleic, phthalic or hexahydrophthalic acid anhydride which may be substituted by one or more radicals of up to 5 carbon atoms each.

Another class of ashless dispersant which can be incorporated in the compositions of the present invention are the products of reaction of an ethoxylated amine made by reaction of ammonia with ethylene oxide with a carboxylic acid of 8 to 30 carbon atoms. The ethoxylated amine may be, for example, mono-, di- or tri-ethanolamine or a polyethoxylated derivative thereof, and the carboxylic acid may be, for example, a straight or branched chain fatty acid of 10 to 22 carbon atoms, a naphthenic acid, a resinic acid or an alkyl aryl carboxylic acid.

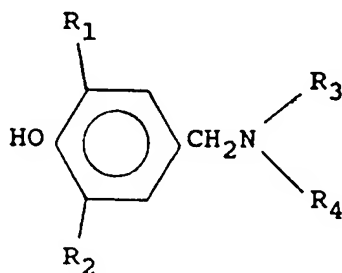
Still another type of ashless dispersants which can be used in the practise of this invention are the α -olefin-maleimide copolymers such as are described in U.S. Pat. No. 3,909,215. Such copolymers are alternating copolymers of N-substituted maleimides and aliphatic α -olefins of from 8 to 30 carbon atoms. The copolymers may have an average of 4 to 20 maleimide groups per molecule. The substituents on the nitrogen of the maleimide may be the same or different and are organic radicals composed essentially of carbon, hydrogen and nitrogen having a total of 3 to 60 carbon atoms. A commercially available material which is highly suitable for use in this invention is Chevron OFA 425B, and this material is believed to be or comprise an α -olefin maleimide copolymer of the type described in U.S. Pat. No. 3,909,215.

All the aforesaid types of ashless dispersants are described in the literature and many are available commercially. Mixtures of various types of ashless dispersants can, of course, be used.

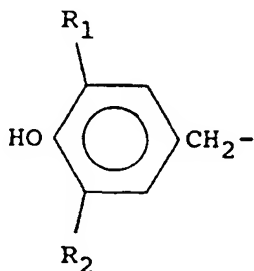
Because of environmental concerns it is desirable to employ ashless dispersants which contain little, if any, halogen atoms such as chlorine atoms. Thus, in order to satisfy such concerns, it is desirable (although not necessary from a performance standpoint) to select ashless dispersants (as well as the other components used in the compositions of this invention) such that the total halogen content of the overall fuel composition does not exceed 10 ppm. Indeed, the lower the better. Most desirably, the additive composition contains no detectable amount of halogen.

Typical halogen (chlorine)-free ashless dispersants suitable for use in the compositions of this invention include, in addition to various types described hereinabove, those described in the following recently-published applications: WO 9003359 and EP 365288.

Hindered Phenolic Antioxidants. As noted above it is desirable to include in the fuel compositions at least one fuel-soluble hindered phenolic antioxidant. One preferred type of compound is comprised of compounds of the formula



wherein R_1 is a hydrocarbyl group containing 1 to 12 carbon atoms, R_2 is a secondary or tertiary hydrocarbyl group containing from 3 to 12 carbon atoms, R_3 is a hydrocarbyl group or a group of the formula



and R_4 is a hydrocarbyl group. R_3 and R_4 , when hydrocarbyl groups, can contain 50 or more carbon atoms but usually contain 18 or less carbon atoms. Methods applicable for the synthesis of such compounds are described for example in U.S. Patent No. 2,962,531.

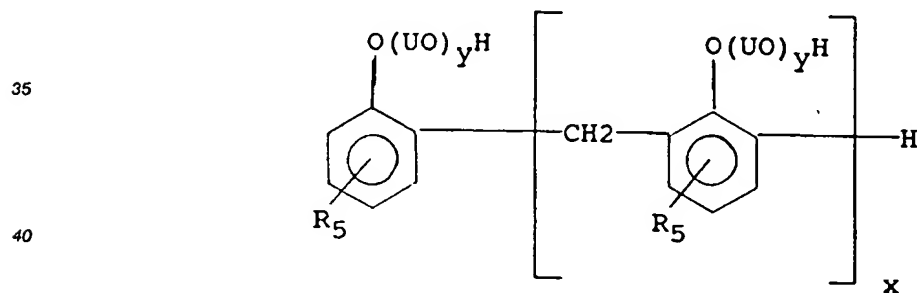
Another preferred type of phenolic antioxidant for use in the practise of this invention is comprised of methylene bridged phenolic compounds including 2,2'-methylenebis(4,6-dihydrocarbylphenols), 4,4'-methylenebis(2,6-dihydrocarbylphenols), and various mixtures of methylene bridged alkylphenols such as are described in U.S. Patent No. 3,211,652. Typical 2,2'-methylenebis(4,6-dihydrocarbylphenols) include 2,2'-methylenebis(4-methyl-6-tert-butylphenol), 2,2'-methylenebis(4-ethyl-6-tert-butyl-phenol), 2,2'-methylenebis(4,6-di-tert-butylphenol), and the like. Exemplary 4,4'-methylenebis(2,6-dihydrocarbyl-phenols) include 4,4'-methylenebis(2,6-di-tert-butylphenol), 4,4'-methylenebis(2-methyl-6-tert-butylphenol), 4,4'-methylenebis(2,6-diisopropyl-phenol), 4,4'-methylenebis(2-tert-amyl-o-cresol), and similar compounds. Synthesis of such compounds are described for example in U.S. Patent No. 2,807,653. Commercially available methylene-bridged alkyl phenols include ETHYL® antioxidant 728 and ETHYL® antioxidant 702, both available from Ethyl Corporation.

Other sterically hindered phenolic antioxidants which can be used include 2,6-di-tert-butylphenol, 4-methyl-2,6-di-tert-butylphenol, 2,4,6-tri-tert-butylphenol, 2-tert-butylphenol, 2,6-diisopropylphenol, 2-methyl-6-tert-butylphenol, 2,4-dimethyl-6-tert-butylphenol, 4-ethyl-2,6-di-tert-butylphenol, 2-methyl-6-styrylphenol, 2,6-di-styryl-4-nonylphenol, and their analogs and homologs. Mixtures of two or more such phenolic compounds are also suitable such as for example, ETHYL® antioxidant 733 available from Ethyl Corporation.

In preferred embodiments of this invention one or more additional components are included in the fuel compositions. These include demulsifying agents, metal deactivators, antifoam agents, corrosion inhibitors, lubricity additives, friction modifiers, and/or solvents.

Demulsifying Agents. The demulsifying agent improves the water tolerance level of the fuel compositions by minimizing or preventing excessive emulsion formation.

Exemplary demulsifiers which may be employed in the practise of this invention include poly-(alkylphenol) formaldehyde condensates and the polyalkyleneoxy modified reaction products thereof. These compounds are prepared by reacting an alkylphenol with formaldehyde and thereafter reacting the reaction product of the above with a C_2 to C_6 alkylene oxide such as ethylene oxide and propylene oxide. The demulsifiers have a generalized structural formula

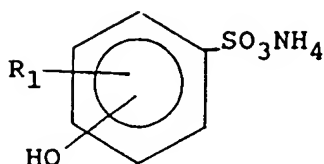


wherein U is an alkylene of 2 to 6 carbons; y is an integer averaging between 4 and 10; x is an integer averaging between 4 and 10; and R₅ is an alkyl having from 4 to 15 carbon atoms.

Preferred demulsifiers described by the above formula are polyethyleneoxy modified methylene bridged poly(alkylphenol) polymers having a polyethyleneoxy chain of 8 to 20 carbons and preferably from 10 to 16 carbons and at least about 75 number percent of the polyethyleneoxy chains being within the range specified. The methylene bridged poly(alkylphenol) portion of the polymer has from 4 to 10 and preferably from 5 to 8 repeating methylene bridged alkylphenol units with 4 to 15 and preferably 6 to 12 carbons in the alkyl group. In preferred embodiments, the alkyl groups are a mixture of alkyls having between 4 and 12 carbon atoms.

Illustrative alkylphenols include p-isobutylphenol, p-diisobutylphenol, p-hexylphenol, p-heptylphenol, p-octylphenol, p-tripropylphenol, and p-dipropylphenol, etc.

Another type of demulsifier component is an ammonia-neutralised sulphonated alkylphenol. These compounds have the general structure:



wherein R_1 is a hydrocarbyl group having from 4 to 15 carbon atoms, preferably from 6 to 12.

These compounds are prepared by sulphonating an alkylated phenol and thereafter neutralising the sulphonated product with ammonia.

Another type of demulsifier is an oxyalkylated glycol. These compounds are prepared by reacting a polyhydroxy alcohol such as ethylene glycol, trimethylene glycol, etc., with ethylene or propylene oxide. Many of the compounds are commercially available from BASF-Wyandotte Chemical Company under the PLURONIC trademark. They are polyethers terminated by hydroxy groups and produced by the block copolymerisation of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide. The ethylene oxide blocks act as the hydrophiles and the propylene oxide blocks as the hydrophobes. They are available in a wide range of molecular weights and with varying ratios of ethylene oxide to propylene oxide.

A further type of commercially available demulsifiers comprises a mixture of alkylaryl sulphonates, polyoxyalkylene glycols and oxyalkylated alkylphenolic resins. Such products are supplied by Petrolite Corporation under the TOLAD trademark. One such propriety product, identified as TOLAD 286K, is understood to be a mixture of these components dissolved in a solvent composed of alkyl benzenes. A related product, TOLAD 286, is also suitable. In this case the product apparently contains the same kind of active ingredients dissolved in a solvent composed of heavy aromatic naphtha and isopropanol. However, other known demulsifiers can be used.

Metal Deactivators. Generally speaking, metal deactivators fall into two broad categories. One category comprises the passivators which are considered to react with the metal surface and thereby passivate the surface. The other category comprises the chelators, i.e., substances which have the capability of reacting or complexing with dissolved metal and/or metal ions. An example of the passivator type is the thiadiazoles such as HITEC® 314 additive (Ethyl Petroleum Additives, Ltd.; Ethyl Petroleum Additives, Inc.). Examples of the chelator type of metal deactivators include 8-hydroxyquinoline, ethylene diamine tetraacetic acid, β -diketones such as acetylacetone, β -ketoesters such as octyl acetoacetate, and the like. The preferred metal deactivators which are generally regarded as chelators, are Schiff bases, such as N,N' -disalicylidene-1,2-ethanediamine, N,N' -disalicylidene-1,2-propanediamine, N,N' -disalicylidene-1,2-cyclohexane-diamine, and N,N'' -disalicylidene- N' -methyl-dipropylene-triamine. Thus a wide variety of known metal deactivators are available for use in the compositions of this invention. Mixtures of metal deactivators can be used.

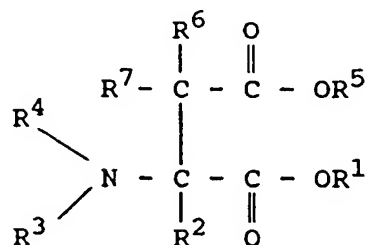
Antifoam Agents. Suitable antifoam agents include silicones and organic polymers such as acrylate polymers. Various antifoam agents are described in Foam Control Agents by H. T. Kerner (Noyes Data Corporation, 1976, pages 125-176). The use of silicone oils such as are available as articles of commerce is generally preferred.

Corrosion Inhibitors. It is also preferred pursuant to this invention to employ in the fuel compositions a suitable quantity of a corrosion or rust inhibitor. This may be a single compound or a mixture of compounds having the property of inhibiting corrosion of metallic surfaces. In some cases compounds are known which act not only as corrosion inhibitors but as metal deactivators in passivating the surface of the metal and thereby inhibiting corrosion.

Among suitable corrosion inhibitors for use in accordance with preferred embodiments of this invention are the thiazoles, triazoles and thiadiazoles. Examples of such compounds include benzotriazole, tolyl-triazole, octyltriazole, decyltriazole, dodecyltriazole, 2-mercapto benzothiazole, 2,5-dimercapto-1,3,4-thiadiazole, 2-mercapto-5-hydrocarbylthio-1,3,4-thiadiazoles, 2-mercapto-5-hydrocarbyldithio-1,3,4-thiadiazoles, 2,5-bis(hydrocarbylthio)-1,3,4-thiadiazoles, and 2,5-(bis)hydrocarbyldithio-1,3,4-thiadiazoles. A number of these materials are available as articles of commerce.

Other types of useful corrosion inhibitors include dimer and trimer acids such as are produced from tall oil fatty acids, oleic acid, linoleic acid, etc.; alkenyl succinic acid and alkenyl succinic anhydride corrosion inhibitors such as tetrapropenylsuccinic acid, tetrapropenylsuccinic anhydride, dodecenylsuccinic acid, dodecenylsuccinic anhydride, hexadecenylsuccinic acid, and similar compounds. Also useful are derivatives of alkenyl succinic acids and anhydrides such as half esters of alkenyl succinic acids having 8 to 24 carbon atoms in the alkenyl group with alcohols such as diols and polyglycols and imides and amides of alkenyl succinic acids and anhydrides having 8 to 24 carbon atoms in the alkenyl group, for example the reaction

product of dodecenyl succinic acid or anhydride with a polyethylene polyamine, further reacted with a fatty acid such as oleic acid. Also useful are aminosuccinic acids or derivatives thereof represented by the formula:



wherein each of R¹, R², R⁵, R⁶ and R⁷ is, independently, a hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbyl group containing 1 to 30 carbon atoms, and wherein each of R³ and R⁴ is, independently, a hydrogen atom, a hydrocarbyl group containing 1 to 30 carbon atoms, or an acyl group containing from 1 to 30 carbon atoms. The groups R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶ and R⁷, when in the form of hydrocarbyl groups, can be, for example, alkyl, cycloalkyl or aromatic containing groups. Preferably R¹ and R⁵ are the same or different straight-chain or branched-chain hydrocarbon radicals containing 1-20 carbon atoms. Most preferably, R¹ and R⁵ are saturated hydrocarbon radicals containing 3-6 carbon atoms. R², either R³ or R⁴, R⁶ and R⁷, when in the form of hydrocarbyl groups, are preferably the same or different straight-chain or branched-chain saturated hydrocarbon radicals. Preferably a dialkyl ester of an aminosuccinic acid is used in which R¹ and R⁵ are the same or different alkyl groups containing 3-6 carbon atoms, R² is a hydrogen atom, and either R³ or R⁴ is an alkyl group containing 15-20 carbon atoms or an acyl group which is derived from a saturated or unsaturated carboxylic acid containing 2-10 carbon atoms.

Most preferred of the aminosuccinic acid derivative is a dialkylester of an aminosuccinic acid of the above formula wherein R¹ and R⁵ are isobutyl, R² is a hydrogen atom, R³ is octadecyl and/or octadecenyl and R⁴ is 3-carboxy-1-oxo-2-propenyl. In such ester R⁶ and R⁷ are most preferably hydrogen atoms.

Lubricity Agents. The compositions of this invention may also contain lubricity agents such as sulfurized fats, sulfurized isobutylene, dialkyl polysulfides, and sulphur-bridged phenols such as nonylphenol polysulfide. Also useful as lubricity agents are fatty acids and their derivatives such as dimer or trimer acids such as are produced from tall oil fatty acids, oleic acid, linoleic acid, etc.

Friction Modifiers. Another type of additives which may be included in the compositions of this invention are friction modifiers such as aliphatic amines or ethoxylated aliphatic amines, aliphatic fatty acid amides, aliphatic carboxylic acids, aliphatic carboxylic esters, aliphatic carboxylic ester-amides, aliphatic phosphonates, aliphatic phosphates, aliphatic thiophosphonates, aliphatic thiophosphates, etc., wherein the aliphatic group usually contains above about eight carbon atoms so as to render the compound suitably soluble in hydrocarbons. Also suitable are aliphatic substituted succinimides formed by reacting one or more aliphatic succinic acids or anhydrides with ammonia such as are described in EP 20,037.

Solvents. Various types of solvents or carriers are available for use in formulating the compositions of this invention. These include hydrocarbons of suitable viscosities and boiling ranges such as high boiling aromatic naphtha, process oil, kerosene, and the like including oligomers and hydrogenated oligomers of alkenes such as hydrogenated decene-1 dimer or trimer. Also useful are alcohols and esters especially higher alcohols such as liquid alkanols having at least eight carbon atoms. An especially useful solvent is isodecanol.

Still other components may be utilised in their customary amounts in the compositions of this invention. These include aromatic amine antioxidants or stabilizers such as N,N'-di-sec-butyl-p-phenylenediamine, phenyl- α -naphthylamine, and 4-isopropylaminodiphenylamine; cetane improvers such as organic nitrate esters or fuel soluble peroxides, hydroperoxides or peroxyesters; metal-containing combustion improvers such as ferrocene and ferrocene derivatives, cyclopentadienyl manganese carbonyl compounds such as cyclopentadienyl manganese tricarbonyl and methylcyclopentadienyl manganese tricarbonyl, and metallic salts such as manganese oleate, iron naphthenate, copper naphthenate, cobalt naphthenate, nickel oleate, and manganese naphthenate; dyes; and the like.

Concentrations and Proportions. As noted above, a critical feature of this invention is to employ a sufficiently high concentration of the fuel-soluble ashless dispersant to achieve prompt reduction in noxious emissions on combustion of the fuel. In other words, rather than relying upon a gradual clean up of engine

or burner parts with concomitant gradual reduction in emissions, this invention achieves virtually immediate, dramatic reductions in noxious emissions because of the high concentration of ashless dispersant employed in the fuel. The minimum amount of ashless dispersant needed to achieve such a substantially instantaneous reduction in emissions will vary to some extent depending upon the character and makeup of the hydrocarbonaceous middle distillate fuel in which the dispersant is employed. However, generally speaking, the minimum amount will fall within the range of 50 to 60 ppm. Ordinarily the fuels will contain no more than about 5,000 ppm of the dispersant although even higher concentrations may be used in situations where such higher concentrations can be justified or are needed.

In general, the other additive components of the compositions of this invention are employed in minor amounts sufficient to improve the performance characteristics and properties of the base fuel. The amounts will thus vary in accordance with such factors as the type of base fuel, the type of service for which the fuel composition is intended, and the performance characteristics desired in the finished fuel. However, generally speaking, the following concentrations (parts per million by weight) of the components (active ingredients) in the fuels are typical:

	Typical Range	Preferred Range
Hindered phenolic antioxidant	0 - 300	5 - 50
Demulsifying agent	0 - 300	2 - 75
Metal deactivator	0 - 100	0.5 - 25
Foam inhibitor	0 - 100	0.5 - 50
Corrosion inhibitor	0 - 100	0.5 - 50
Lubricity additive	0 - 100	0.5 - 50

It will be appreciated that the individual components employed can be separately blended into the fuel or can be blended therein in various subcombinations, if desired. Ordinarily, the particular sequence of such blending steps is not critical. Moreover, such components can be blended in the form of separate solutions in a diluent. It is preferable, however, to blend the components used in the form of an additive concentrate of this invention, as this simplifies the blending operations, reduces the likelihood of blending errors, and takes advantage of the compatibility and solubility characteristics afforded by the overall concentrate.

The additive concentrates of this invention will contain the components used in amounts proportioned to yield finished fuels consistent with the concentrations tabulated above. In most cases, the additive concentrate will contain one or more diluents such as light mineral oils and/or higher alcohols to facilitate handling and blending of the concentrate. Thus concentrates containing up to 90% by weight of one or more diluents or solvents can be used.

Hydrocarbonaceous Fuels. In principle, the advantages of this invention may be achieved in any distilled or distillable liquid hydrocarbonaceous fuel derived from petroleum, coal, shale and/or tar sands. In most instances, at least under present circumstances, the base fuels will be derived primarily, if not exclusively, from petroleum.

The invention is thus applicable to such fuels as kerosene, jet fuel, aviation fuel, diesel fuel, home heating oil, light cycle oil, heavy cycle oil, light gas oil, heavy gas oil, and in general, any liquid hydrocarbonaceous product suitable for combustion either in an engine (e.g., diesel fuel, gas turbine fuels, etc.) or in a burner apparatus (e.g., gas oils, home heating oils, etc.). Other suitable fuels may include liquid fuels derived from biomass, such as vegetable oils (e.g., rapeseed oil, jojoba oil, cottonseed oil, etc.); or refuse-derived liquid fuels such as fuels derived from municipal and/or industrial wastes; or waste oils and/or liquid waste biomass and its derivatives; or mixtures of any of the foregoing substances.

In many cases, specifications exist for various hydrocarbonaceous fuels or grades thereof, and in any event the nature and character of such fuels are wellknown and reported in the literature. Generally speaking, so-called middle distillate fuels boil within the range of about 140 °C to about 400 °C.

The practice and advantages of this invention will be still further apparent from the following illustrative example wherein all percentages are by weight.

EXAMPLE

An additive concentrate of this invention was formed by blending together the following components in the proportions specified:

Succinimide ashless dispersant ⁽¹⁾	37.50%
2,6-Di-tert-butyl- α -dimethylamino-p-cresol	3.75%
N,N'-disalicylidene-1,2-propanediamine ⁽²⁾	0.50%
Corrosion inhibitor ⁽³⁾	3.75%
Demulsifying agent ⁽⁴⁾	4.25%
Silicone foam inhibitor	2.50%
Lubricity additive ⁽⁵⁾	3.75%
Aromatic naphtha solvent	9.50%
Isodecanol solvent	34.50%

(1) Polyisobutenyl succinimide of tetraethylenepentamine in which the number average molecular weight of the polyisobutenyl group is about 950; used as a 75% solution in high aromatic solvent.

(2) Used as an 80% solution in xylene.

(3) Low molecular weight succinimide type corrosion inhibitor; used as a 50% solution in process oil.

(4) Used as a 60% solution in kerosene.

(5) Used as a 61.5% solution in a mixture of process oil and kerosene.

The additive concentrate was blended into commercially available diesel fuels at a concentration of 400 ppm. Thus, the fuels contained approximately 112.5 ppm of succinimide ashless dispersant (active ingredient) and 15 ppm of 2,6-di-tert-butyl- α -dimethylamino-p-cresol. These blended fuels were used in the operation of two different diesel engines. One was a Volvo TD121F 12 litre turbo-charged intercooled truck engine. The other engine was a 4-cylinder Mercedes-Benz 200D passenger car engine with a displacement of 1.997 litres and a rated power of 53 kw. The base fuel used in the Volvo truck engine tests had a cetane number of 48.9 (per ASTM D 976-80), a density at 15 °C of 0.853 (per ASTM D 1298), an API gravity of 34.2, a total sulphur content of 0.125 weight percent, a content of aromatics of 39% by volume (per ASTM D 1019-68) (Mod)), an initial boiling point of 176 °C and a final boiling point of 362 °C (per ASTM D 86).

The Volvo truck engine test was run utilising the ECE R49 13-mode cycle test firstly to give triplicate results on the clear (unadditised) diesel fuel (the commercially available diesel fuel described above) and then immediately in triplicate on the above diesel fuel of this invention. Thereafter, a further triplicate series of tests were run on the additised fuel, but for this triplicate series, the measurements were made only after 60 hours of running and the cycle used only for this 60 hours of running employed three typical modes rather than the full 13 modes employed in the previous two series. A summary of the results so obtained is set forth in Table 1.

Table 1

Volvo Truck Engine ECE R49-13 Mode Results -
Grams Per Horsepower Hour

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		<u>Fuel of This Invention</u>		
		<u>Tested</u>	<u>Tested</u>	
	<u>Clear Fuel</u>	<u>Immediately</u>	<u>After 60 Hrs.</u>	
10	<u>Emissions</u>			
	HC, avg.	0.619	0.546	0.487
15	% change	--	-11.8	-21.3
	NOX, avg.	8.91	8.88	9.26
	% change	--	-0.3	+3.4
20	CO, avg.	3.395	2.996	2.450
	% change	--	-11.8	-27.8
	Particulates, avg.	0.4804	0.4420	0.3779
	% change	--	-8.0	-21.3
25	<u>Fuel Consumption</u>			
	BSFC*, avg.	161.47	159.52	159.02
	% change	--	-1.21	-1.52
30				

30

* Brake standard fuel consumption

35 It can be seen from Table 1 that the fuel of this invention gave an almost immediate dramatic reduction in emissions of hydrocarbons, CO, and particulates. In addition, the fuel of this invention gave an almost immediate improvement in fuel economy. Moreover, these improvements continued and in some cases became even greater after 60 hours of test.

40 The Mercedes-Benz 200D passenger car tests were road tests using a vehicle which had already been driven in normal service for 135,500 km with service intervals of 10,000 km and without injector replacement. The fuel was switched to using the fuel of this invention and the emissions and fuel consumption change were measured both immediately and after an additional 1,000 km of driving. Four different standard driving cycle systems were evaluated; namely Federal Test Procedure 75 ("FTP 75"), Federal Test Procedure 72 ("FTP 72"), Highway Fuel Economy Test ("HW FET"), and ECE Regulation 15-04 ("ECE 15"). The results of these tests are summarized in Table 2.

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Table 2

Mercedes-Benz Passenger Car Test Results

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<u>Fuel of This Invention</u>				
<u>Emissions</u>	<u>Tested Immediately</u>			
	<u>FTP 75</u>	<u>FTP 72</u>	<u>HW FET</u>	<u>ECE 15</u>
HC, % change	-16	-11	-29	-10
CO, % change	-5	-6	-6	-6
Particulates, % change	-15	-5	-10	+5

15

<u>Fuel Consumption</u>				
Fuel Consumption, % change	-1.5	-2.5	-1	-2

20

<u>Tested After 1000 km</u>				
<u>Emissions</u>	<u>FTP 75</u>	<u>FTP 72</u>	<u>HW FET</u>	<u>ECE 15</u>
HC, % change	-20	-22	-48	-3
CO, % change	-6	-8	-11	0
Particulates, % change	-11	-1	-2	+3

25

<u>Fuel Consumption</u>				
Fuel Consumption, % change	-2	-4	-3	-4.5

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Tests were also conducted using a diesel fuel not of this invention containing a very similar additive formulation as described above, but at a lower concentration of ashless dispersant. In this test the fuel was evaluated in a Peugeot 309 GLD diesel passenger car equipped with a 1,905 cc 4-cylinder, indirect injection diesel engine. The additive formulation (deemed suitable for the practise of this invention if utilised at a suitably high concentration) was as follows:

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Succinimide ashless dispersant ⁽¹⁾	17.0%
2,6-Di-tert-butyl- α -dimethylamino-p-cresol	2.5%
Methylene-bridged alkyl phenol ⁽²⁾	10.0%
N,N'-disalicylidene-1,2-propanediamine ⁽³⁾	1.0%
Corrosion inhibitor ⁽⁴⁾	5.0%
Demulsifying agent ⁽⁵⁾	4.0%
Silicone foam inhibitor	3.8%
Aromatic naphtha solvent	34.0%
Isodecanol solvent	22.7%

(1) Polyisobutenyl succinimide of tetraethylenepentamine in which the number average molecular weight of the polyisobutenyl group is about 950; used as a 77% solution in process oil.

(2) A 50% solution in process oil of a hindered phenol mixture containing 85% methylene-bridged phenol and 2% solvent.

(3) Used as an 80% solution in xylene.

(4) Low molecular weight succinimide type corrosion inhibitor; used as a 50% solution in process oil.

(5) Used as a 60% solution in kerosene.

This additive concentrate was blended into the fuel at a concentration of 200 ppm. Accordingly, the fuel contained approximately 26.2 ppm of the active ashless dispersant and 5.0 ppm of the 2,6-di-tert-butyl- α -dimethylamino-p-cresol.

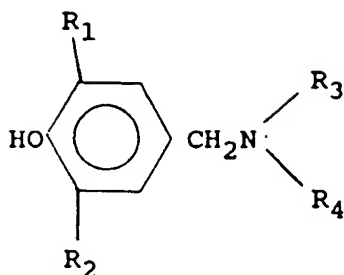
The test operation involved 967 km dynamometer distance accumulation using a mixed urban/highway driving cycle. This was followed by measurements of emissions according to the ECE 15-04 cycle. The results, expressed in terms of grams of emissions per test, of duplicate tests performed in this manner are as follows:

Emissions	Untreated Fuel	Treated Fuel
CO	3.457	3.915
HC	0.759	0.967
NOX	4.495	4.608

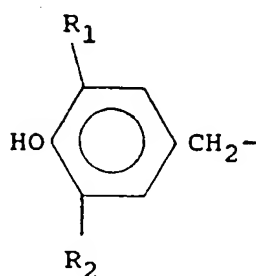
It can be seen that in each instance the treated fuel not of this invention resulted in an increase in noxious emissions.

Claims

1. A fuel composition which comprises a liquid middle distillate hydrocarbonaceous fuel containing at least one fuel-soluble ashless dispersant in an amount of at least 50 ppm sufficient to cause a prompt reduction in emissions released upon combustion of said fuel composition.
2. A fuel composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein the amount of ashless dispersant in said fuel composition is in the range of 75 to 1,000 ppm.
3. A fuel composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein the amount of ashless dispersant in said fuel composition is in the range of 100 to 250 ppm.
4. A fuel composition as claimed in any of claims 1-3 additionally containing at least one fuel-soluble hindered phenolic antioxidant.
5. A fuel composition as claimed in any of claims 1-3 additionally containing at least one fuel-soluble hindered phenolic compound of the formula

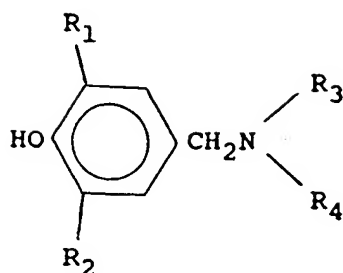


wherein R_1 is a hydrocarbyl group containing 1 to 12 carbon atoms, R_2 is a secondary or tertiary hydrocarbyl group containing from 3 to 12 carbon atoms, R_3 is a hydrocarbyl group or a group of the formula

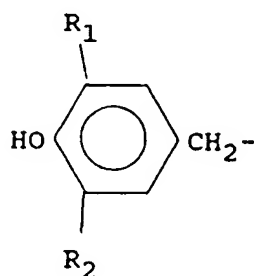


and R_4 is a hydrocarbyl group.

6. A fuel composition as claimed in any of claims 1-3 additionally containing 2,6-di-tert-butyl- α -dimethyl-amino-p-cresol.
7. A fuel composition as claimed in any of claims 1-6 additionally containing at least one or more of the following components:
 - a) at least one fuel-soluble metal deactivator of the chelation type;
 - b) at least one fuel-soluble demulsifying agent;
 - c) at least one fuel-soluble antifoam agent;
 - d) at least one lubricity additive;
 - e) as a solvent or carrier fluid, at least one liquid alcohol and/or at least one liquid aromatic hydrocarbon.
8. A fuel composition as claimed in any of claims 1-7 wherein the ashless dispersant is a succinimide formed by reacting at least one polybutenyl succinic acylating agent with a mixture of cyclic and acyclic polyethylene polyamines having an approximate overall composition falling in the range of diethylene triamine to pentaethylene hexamine.
9. A method of achieving an almost immediate reduction in the amount of noxious emissions formed on combustion of a hydrocarbonaceous fuel in the middle distillate boiling range which comprises blending in said fuel at least one ashless dispersant in an amount of at least 50 ppm sufficient to achieve said reduction in emissions.
10. A method according to claim 11 wherein there is also blended into said fuel at least one fuel-soluble hindered phenolic compound of the formula

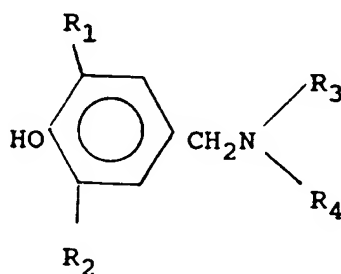


wherein R_1 is a hydrocarbyl group containing 1 to 12 carbon atoms, R_2 is a secondary or tertiary hydrocarbyl group containing from 3 to 12 carbon atoms, R_3 is a hydrocarbyl group or a group of the formula

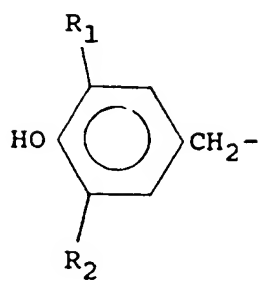


and R_4 is a hydrocarbyl group.

11. A method of minimizing fuel consumption of a compression ignition engine operated on a liquid hydrocarbonaceous compression ignition fuel which method comprises supplying to said engine a liquid hydrocarbonaceous compression ignition fuel containing at least one ashless dispersant in an amount of at least one 50 ppm sufficient to minimize such fuel consumption.
12. A method according to Claim 11 wherein the fuel supplied to said engine also contains at least one fuel-soluble hindered phenolic compound of the formula



wherein R_1 is a hydrocarbyl group containing 1 to 12 carbon atoms, R_2 is a secondary or tertiary hydrocarbyl group containing from 3 to 12 carbon atoms, R_3 is a hydrocarbyl group or a group of the formula



and R₄ is a hydrocarbyl group.



European
Patent Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 90 31 1609

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
X	EP-A-0 251 419 (ETHYL) * Whole document; especially page 4, line 10 *	1-7,9-12	C 10 L 1/22 C 10 L 1/14 C 10 L 10/02
Y	-----	8	
Y	EP-A-0 355 895 (ETHYL) * Cl.; page 5 *	8	
X	----- EP-A-0 235 868 (SHELL) * Whole document *	1-4,7	
X	----- DE-A-1 914 338 (ESSO) * Whole document *	1-4,7,9, 11	
A	----- EP-A-0 385 633 (ETHYL) * Whole document *	5,10,12	
A	----- EP-A-0 078 249 (LANG & CO.) * Cl. *	9-12	
X	----- EP-A-0 207 560 (SHELL) * Whole document *	1-4,7,9	
A	-----	11	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
X	----- EP-A-0 203 692 (EXXON) * Whole document, especially column 1, line 33 - column 2, line 8 *	1-4,7,9, 11	C 10 L
X	----- US-A-4 022 589 (ALQUIST et al.) * Whole document *	1,9	

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of search	Examiner
The Hague		29 May 91	DE LA MORINERIE B.M.
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